



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**BRADLEY J. SCHLOZMAN**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ELDON MAN INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL MACHINE GUN**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Eldon, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for illegally possessing a machine gun.

**Eric Christopher Opie**, 28, of Eldon, was charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Opie** was a felon in possession of a firearm while an unlawful user of a controlled substance on April 10, 2006, in Miller County, Mo. According to the indictment, **Opie** was an unlawful user of methamphetamine while in possession of a U.S. Military .45-caliber fully automatic machine gun. Under federal law, Schlozman explained, it is illegal for anyone who is an unlawful user, or addicted to, a controlled substance, or who has been convicted of a felony, to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Opie** has a 2004 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance in Camden County, Mo.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Opie** was in possession of a stolen firearm. According to the indictment, **Opie** was in possession of the machine gun, knowing that it was stolen.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Opie** illegally possessed the machine gun. Under federal law, it is illegal to transfer or possess a machine gun.

Schlozman cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by

the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Miller County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Mid-Missouri Drug Task Force and the Lake Ozark, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)